

Fort Sheridan Magazine  
(Building No. 57A)  
North of Bartlett Ravine Rd and  
West of Patten Bridge  
Fort Sheridan  
Lake County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-19

HABS  
ILL,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IL-1113-19

FORT SHERIDAN, MAGAZINE (Building No. 57A)

*FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT*

Location:

North of Bartlett Ravine Road and  
west of Patten Bridge.  
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 16. 433200. 4673730.

Present Owner  
and Occupant:

United States Army.

Present Use:

Ordnance Warehouse.

Significance:

A Holabird and Roche designed building which is an  
excellent example of a magazine on a military post  
and which adds to the comprehensiveness of the late  
19th century building stock at Fort Sheridan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1892.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Jonathan Clark and Sons and Company.
5. Original plan and construction: A buff-cream brick, rectangular building with the ridge of the hipped roof running east-west and the entrance in the short end.
6. Alterations and additions: Two windows were infilled with brick in 1955. The original copper covered roof has been replaced by cement asbestos shingles.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606.  
Elevations, plans, stone diagram and full scale detail of cornice  
and gutter, n.d. Drawings are water damaged.

2. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster  
General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office  
of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division Record Group  
92. U.S. Army Continental Command, 6th Corps Area Records,  
Record Group 394 (contains specifications). National Archives  
and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering,  
Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A plain brick building having over-  
hanging eaves and outriggers but with none of the decorative  
brick detail which marks many of the Holabird and Roche designs  
at Fort Sheridan.
2. Condition of fabric: Generally good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A rectangular, one-story block which mea-  
sures 23'-3" by 59'-11".
2. Foundations: The foundation is not visible because the parking  
area around the building has been black topped. It is most  
probably random ashlar limestone.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond with five rows of stretchers to one row of headers.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There is only one entrance, and it is in the west short side. The doorway has a segmental brick arch formed by two rowlocks. The door is at the top of three broad stone steps and is constructed of oak with a steel plate in the middle and steel sheathing on both sides.
  - b. Windows: Two windows, one in each of the long sides have been infilled with a pink-red brick. The segmental, gauged brick arches above and the stone sills below are still visible in the wall.
6. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The roof is hipped and covered with asbestos shingles.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Overhanging eaves have soffits and outriggers which are curved on the ends. There is a double row of projecting stretchers below the eaves.
  - c. Cupolas: A metal ventilator rests on the ridge of the roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The building is divided into two rooms. The first room originally had two windows. The second room, at the rear of the building, is windowless and was used for storing dynamite.
2. Flooring: The floor is wood over a concrete platform.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plastered. The ceiling is reinforced by steel beams.
4. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: A second oak door encased in steel sheathing is behind the outside door. A third door of steel bands is behind this. The door between the two rooms is also of oak and is covered with steel sheathing.

- b. Windows: The original windows remain in the first room, one on each of the side walls. The openings have casement windows on the inside and six-over-six-light double hung sash windows on the outside. The bars on the outside of the windows and the bricks which cover the openings on the outside are visible through the glazing.
5. Hardware: The light fixtures at one time had spark free globes. They have been removed and are stacked in the corner of the first room.

Decorative metal grills cover the air outlets which are spaced about 36" apart above the base boards.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces east with the ridge of the roof running east-west. It is located in a parking lot behind a group of temporary buildings. Behind the Magazine the land slopes sharply downward to Bartlett Ravine Road, which forms the southern boundary of the Fort Sheridan Historic District.
2. Outbuildings: Two concrete block, fixed ammunition magazines (Buildings No. 57B and 57C) which date to 1929 are located north of the Magazine.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.